

United States Government

Department of Energy  
Bonneville Power Administration

# memorandum

DATE: 8/12/99

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KECN-4

SUBJECT: Supplemental Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS, (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-17)

to: Thomas C. McKinney – KECN-4  
NEPA Compliance Officer

**Proposed Action:** Union County Small Acreage Aerator (99-062)

**Budget No:** F-5388

**Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS):** 6.2 Planned Grazing System, 6.3 Control Grazing Intensity, 6.4 Pasture and Hayland Management, and 6.15 Vegetation Stabilization; Brush/Weed Management

**Location:** Upper Grande Ronde River Subbasin, Union County, Oregon

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), and the Union Soil and Water Conservation District.

**Description of the Proposed Action:** The Union Soil and Water Conservation District is proposing to purchase and make available to landowners an 8ft Pull-Type Aerway Aerator. This implement is designed for small acreage landowners interested in improved soil management. The implement can loosen and aerate compacted soils thereby reducing soil erosion and increasing water infiltration.

Excess sediment and nutrients have been implicated in the degradation of salmonid habitats in the Grande Ronde Basin. Compacted soils associated with improper livestock grazing and improper tillage methods contribute to sediment and nutrient loading within the watershed. The implement will be used both as a preventive and rehabilitation tool on pastures and farmlands of the Upper Grande Ronde.

**Analysis:** The compliance checklist for this project was completed by BPA and meets the standards and guideline for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

Discussions with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife biologists indicate the proposed activities will not affect T&E plant, fish or wildlife species. Potential federally listed species are Snake River spring chinook, summer steelhead, bull trout, peregrine falcon, and bald eagle. An Oregon state listed species is the wolverine.